

FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

The Affair of Santa Rosa Island.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your issue of November 23d, over the signature of E. R. Johnston, appears a tissue of misstatements purporting to be a true account of the above affair.

The facts are that five companies of the 6th New York (three companies of the regiment were left at the Dry Tortugas and Key West in care of the batteries in front of Fort Pickens— the latter fact you will find mentioned in "Chronicle of the War," on page 100), numbering two hundred and twenty men, were ordered to that day will show, with one-third of the force spread out on picket duty, were attacked at 2 o'clock on the morning of October 3d, by three columns of the enemy, each numbering 800 men. Both sides were armed with old smooth bore throwing three inch and a half. You had to be close enough to shake hands before doing execution, and then the charges were the worst of it. There was a conviction among the men that the cartridges were filled with left-hand powder, that delivered its whole force to the rear and dropped the last out of the muzzle harmlessly. It was a very dark night, and neither side had been in action before.

The three columns struck our pickets about the same time. On our right, Major Brainerd, in command of the rebels, was killed by Scott, of company C. On the left there was a number killed on both sides. Mentaine, Col. Wilson got about 150 men in line in front of the camp. Captain Hamilton, with the skirmishers, was struck by the whole force and driven in with two men killed. Colonel Wilson held his ground till our camp was on fire and the Johnston had got in our rear, when he fell back to a mortar battery. He said Major Vaghes with two companies of Regulars, who formed our right, and I distinctly remember the major going down and line and telling our men not to be afraid, and that we were in the right, and would soon win. We advanced in this order, and the enemy, who had been plundering our commissary, were taken with panic, and that ended the affair, so far as fighting went, although Major Vaghes was taken prisoner afterwards from getting entangled with a mob of fugitives. What followed was a mere killing match. The rebels having six miles to run to their boats, and day breaking, the Regulars took the advance, and having good rifles, they picked the enemy off without risk to themselves. There was not a Regular killed or wounded in the action, unless it was the major, who was carried off. We lost fifty men in killed, wounded and missing. A few stragglers ran to the fort, as would naturally occur, and that is all the foundation for Comrade Johnston's statement.

J. RANDALL.

EAST NEWARK, N. J. Co. G, 6th N. Y.

A Veteran Soldier on Gen. Howard's Articles.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I have been a constant reader of THE TRIBUNE for two years, and have read with interest the accounts of different comrades of battles in which they were engaged, but I have looked in vain for some description of battles in or by the Army of the Potomac until General Howard's account of the battle of Bull Run. What he has already written is worth to me the subscription price of THE TRIBUNE for one year. I was a member of Co. F, 2d Vermont regiment, and was engaged in the battle of Bull Run. I have read the last number of THE TRIBUNE containing his narrative with the deepest interest. I kept a diary at the time he is now writing, which I have now in my possession, and I can say to date, camping, etc., but without reference to a diary, by reading his description of our movements, it seems as though I were there again, enduring the marches under a burning July sun, short of rations, and our supply train far behind—indeed so far behind that we did not see them until after the battle. We were very short of rations, and subsisted for two or three days on blackberries and by killing cattle, hogs, and chickens. We were stationed for two days previous to the battle about one mile east of Centerville. The night before the fight (Saturday night, July 20) General Howard sent a messenger to our headquarters and delivered the command in an eloquent and patriotic speech, after which he made a prayer, and such a prayer as was seldom heard in the army. I remember it distinctly, and with the idea that he could fight as well as he could pray, we were "fixed" for a commander.

Yours in F., and L. S. V. C., Dept. Vt.

WATERVILLE, VT., Nov. 25, 1883.

The 1st Minnesota at Bull Run.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

General Howard, in his article in your issue of the 29th of November, credits the dead in red uniforms on the field of the first Bull Run battle to the 1st Minnesota. I presume the 1st New York (6th Regt.) was the 1st Minnesota regiment, on that day, was a black felt hat, red shirt, and blue pants, and many of them were white leggings. The 1st Minnesota regiment, on the afternoon of the 29th of November, was ordered to the right of the 1st New York, and it was the growth of a private company A made prisoner of the 1st Minnesota regiment, and the 1st New York, the possession of which was the bone of contention for the time being, and which was not entirely abandoned until a rebel battery and the entire line of the 1st New York had become too familiar with our right flank. General Beauregard, in his report, placed the loss of the 1st Minnesota regiment at thirty-three per cent. Therefore, I claim that all the dead in red uniforms on that day were the 1st Minnesota, though many of them were seen on the ground to our left.

Co. G, 1st Minn. Reg't.

MYSTIC RIVER, CONN.

Who Commanded the 12th Kentucky Volunteers?

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Will you kindly inform me who commanded the 12th Kentucky volunteers, and who was its brigade, division and corps commander through the late war? I believe that that regiment, but was absent (tick) a great deal of my time, and I have forgotten who my commanders were. My regiment belonged to the 2d army corps, Army of the Cumberland. Yours truly,

Richard Dehn,

Private Co. H, 13th Ky. Vol. Inf.

PRESTON, ILL.

The 13th Kentucky was organized in December, 1861, by Colonel E. H. Hobson, who was promoted brigadier-general in November, 1862, when his nephew, Wm. E. Hobson, became colonel, and commanded the regiment until his muster out in January, 1865. The 13th served in the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 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